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FARM BUSINESS FACTS

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A discussion between Wallace Kadderly, Radio Service, and E. J. Rowell, Agricultural Marketing Service, broadcast during the Department of Agriculture portion of the National Farm and Home Hour, Friday, August 18, 1939, by the National Broadcasting Company and associated radio stations.

KADDERLY:

Yesterday, we said that E. J. "Mike" Rowell, of the Agricultural Marketing Service would be with us today to report on the livestock situation. He's here and we'll take up that report now. Tell us, Mike, are farmers going to send more or less livestock to market this fall than a year ago?

ROWELL:

More pounds of livestock, Wallace. There are two ways of measuring the quantity of livestock sent to market. One way is to count the actual number of cattle, sheep, or hogs; and the other is to figure the total weight of livestock sent to market. During the rest of this year and in 1940 more pounds of livestock will be sent to market than were sent a year earlier.

KADDERLY:

I'm sure all of us remember the recent report which said that there was quite a big increase - about 20 percent - in the number of pigs born last spring and that we should expect a large increase in the number of hogs on the market this fall and winter. Does that still hold?

ROWELL:

Yes, it does.

KADDERLY:

All right -- now what about cattle on feed this year. More or less than a year ago.

ROWELL:

About 15 percent more in the Corn Belt States on August 1, than there were on feed August 1 last year. It is expected that farmers will feed a relatively large number of cattle in the Corn Belt next winter and spring. But the number of cattle fed in the Western States in the coming feeding season will be much smaller than last year because of the shortage of feed.

KADDERLY:

That's the report covering cattle on feed. What about the number of cattle coming to market? - - - all cattle.

ROWELL:

Right now it looks as though the total number of cattle and calves sent to market from the Western States will be somewhat larger than last year. The total number of cattle in the Western States on January 1 may be about the same as last year but increases are expected in the rest of the country.

KADDERLY:

Now tell us about the lamb situation.

(over)

8/18/39

ROWELL:

More lambs will probably be sent to market from the western sheep States than were sent last year. Even though the western lamb crop was a little smaller this year, range conditions have been poor in most of the area. This will discourage farmers from holding back ewe lambs. Because of poor feeding conditions, the number of lambs fed in the western feeding areas will probably be smaller than last year. In the Corn Belt where feed supplies are quite large, no reduction is expected and probably there will be some increase.

KADDERLY:

All right -- that covers hogs, cattle, and sheep. Are the consumers going to be able to buy more meat?

ROWELL:

As I said yesterday, Wallace, housewives probably will have more money to spend for meat and other farm products during the rest of this year and at least during the early part of 1940, than they did the first half of this year.

KADDERLY:

Now, let me see if I can sum it up. In terms of total live weight more livestock will go to market during the rest of this year and next year than was the case a year earlier; hog supplies will be larger; more grain-fed cattle will go to market; and the supply of lambs available for feeding will be larger than last year. Finally, that housewives will be able to spend more money for food than they did during this time a year ago.

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